

**BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2014**

**GVRA BOARD ROOM  
200 PIEDMONT AVENUE, WEST TOWER  
14<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
ATLANTA, GA 30334**

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Meeting called to order at 1 p.m. by Chairman Jimmy DeFoor

**Members Present:**

Louise Hill  
Marsha Farrow  
Jonathan Taylor  
Sandy Adams  
Don Parks  
Fay Loggins  
Jimmy DeFoor

**Members Absent:**

Amy O'Dell  
Bob Green

**Approval of Minutes**

- Motion to approve minutes from September 2014 GVRS Board Meeting made by Fay Loggins, seconded by Don Parks.
- Vote: Motion carried unanimously

**Consumer Presentations**

Former VR Client Leroy Douthit  
Former VR Client and DAS Employee Felicia Langford

**Executive Director's Report**

GVRA Executive Director Greg Schmieg

- Key Highlights
  - Legal/Compliance
  - Disability Liaison
  - Georgia Industries for the Blind
  - Staff Survey
- Major Concerns
  - GDOL MOU
  - VR-CRP Billing (GRACI)
  - DAS Staff Complaints

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
  - Aligns federal investment to support job seekers and employers
  - Common performance measures and encourages common data systems across core programs
  - Focus on formal partnerships with State Workforce Investment, DOL, Education partners, Medicaid, etc.
  - Mandatory reserve of 15% of federal funds for pre-employment transition services “PETS”
  - New restrictions and limitations on allowable “administrative” expenses and amount
  - Changes CSPD requirement
  - Changes in supported employment
  - New Section 511 – limitations on use of subminimum wages (14c organizations)
  - Requires American Indian programs to produce high quality employment outcomes
  - Transfers IL out of Rehab

#### **Old Business**

- Subcommittee chaired by Marsha Farrow to discuss concerns brought up by blind community in September 2014 meeting
  - Mrs. Farrow detailed a meeting on November 8 at the Center for the Visually Impaired, which included members Fay Loggin and Bob Green
  - 58 attendees at this meeting including service providers, consumers and board members
  - Noted that concerns were still ongoing regarding GVRA restructuring and that limited resources exist for blind community, notably funding
  - Even then, she said, the strongest resources for the blind community exist in GVRA and GVRS Board was doing currently all that it could to help the community
  - Future meeting to be in roughly six months, though no meeting date nor location was set
- Meeting with deaf community set for November 24

#### **Opportunity for SRC or SILC Input**

No input given at November meeting

#### **New Business**

No new business

#### **Public Comment**

- D’Arcy Rob from the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities discussed the Employment First Coalition and invited board members to a call-in meeting on November 20

- Kaye Zimpher, secretary for the Georgia Statewide Coalition on Blindness, shared her personal story with the board and urged the board and GVRA to continue to help those with visual impairments

**Adjournment to Executive Session**

- Motion to adjourn to executive session made by Louise Hill, seconded by Sandy Adams
- Vote: Motion carried unanimously

Meeting was called to order, and Chairman Defoor announced that no action had been taken in executive session; with no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Approved:**



Jimmy Defoor, Chair



Marsha Farrow, Secretary



  
1/14/15